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# Psychiatry Dissidents Win Out

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DALLAS, April 29—A group of young dissidents has taken over control of the 15,000-member merican Psychiatric Association after only the second contested election in the organization's 128-year history.

The board of trustees announced today that Dr. Alfred M. Freedman of New York, the rump group's candidate, had been chosen president-elect over the candidate by the APA nominating committee.

Freedman's margin of victory was only three votes out of a total of 9,199 ballots counted. He defeated Dr. George Tarjan of Los Angeles, 4,601 votes to 4,598 votes.

A dispute over the counting of the ballots, in which the Committee of Concerned Psychiatrists, the dissidents, thought the APA hierarchy was trying to steal the election, threatened to split the orwhich opens here Monday.
ganization's annual meeting,

The president-elect is the most powerful officer in the organization. He has the authority to appoint the committees that make official APA policy.

Although Freedman is not a young man—he is the co-author of one of the standard textbooks on psychiatry and a recognized expert in the treatment of drug abuse—most of his supporters are young. The leaders of the Washington, D.C., contingent working for his election—Drs. E. Fuller Torrey, Scott Nelson and Kent Raveanscroft—are all under 35.

The issues have more to do with the internal workings of the APA, which, Raveanscroft said in an interview here today, tend to be arbitrary and not accountable to the membership's desires, than on outside issues or how psychiatry should be practiced.

Ravenscorft said the Committee of Concerned Psychiatrists would like to make the APA a strong spokesman against racism, poverty, sexisma nd war. These, he said, all affect the mental health of the nation and are legitimate concern for psychiatrists.

Many conservative members of the APA believe that a scientific and professional organization should not be concerned with social issues. Moreover, by taking stands on social issues, the APA's tax-exempt status may be questioned.

The Committee of Concerned Psychiatrists started at the APA convention two years ago in San Franciscop which took place just as the Nixon administration sent American troops into Cambodia.

Many members wanted the APA to oppose the war strongly then and there. But more conservative members who had control of the APA hierrarchy postponed a vote at the convention in favor of a mail ballot of all members. Once the ballot was taken, a group of members tried to prevent the results of the vote from being published.

This dissatisfaction led to the formation of the Committee for Concerned Psychiatrists.

Today's announcement of the election results followed a second counting of the ballots and a lawsuit by the dissident psychiatrists—dismissed Friday—to stop what they thought was an attempt to steal the election from them.

The dispute arose after psychiatrists from Tarjan's home district demanded a recount after the first balloting showed him the loser by two votes. This time the APA tellers called in the American Arbitration Association and decided to look at 27 ballots that had come after an April 10 deadline. All 27 of those ballots were still ruled invalid, and the recount showed Freeman had won by three votes.